

5 form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of this invention. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention is solely defined by the appended claims. It will be understood by those with skill in the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim element is intended, such intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such limitation is present. For non-limiting example, as an aid to understanding, the appended claims 10 may contain the introductory phrases "at least one" or "one or more" to introduce claim elements. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim element by indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim element to inventions containing only one such element, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "at least one" or "one or more" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an;" the same holds true for the use in the claims of definite articles.

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CLAIMS

We claim:

25 1. A method for handling location information, said method comprising:
acquiring location data regarding a user from a plurality of location sources;
creating a collection of said location data regarding said user;
ranking items in said collection according to expected utility; and
updating said location data continuously.

30 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

35 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

40 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:
said acquiring further comprises acquiring location data regarding more than one user;
said creating further comprises creating collections of said location data regarding more than one user, organized by user; and
said ranking further comprises ranking items in said collections regarding more than one user, according to expected utility.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said users.

5 7. A method for handling location information, said method comprising:
ranking items in a collection of location data regarding a user, according to expected utility; and
updating said location data continuously.

10 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

15 10. The method of claim 7, wherein:
said ranking further comprises ranking items in collections of location data regarding more than
one user, according to expected utility.

20 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said users.

25 13. An information handling system for handling location information, said information handling
system comprising:
means for acquiring location data regarding a user from a plurality of location sources;
means for creating a collection of said location data regarding said user;
means for ranking items in said collection according to expected utility; and
means for updating said location data continuously.

30 35 14. The information handling system of claim 13, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

15. The information handling system of claim 13, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

40 16. The information handling system of claim 13, wherein:
said means for acquiring further comprises means for acquiring location data regarding more
than one user;
said means for creating further comprises means for creating collections of said location data
regarding more than one user, organized by user; and
said means for ranking further comprises means for ranking items in said collections regarding

more than one user, according to expected utility.

17. The information handling system of claim 16, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

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18. The information handling system of claim 16, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said
users.

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19. An information handling system for handling location information, said information
handling system comprising:
means for ranking items in a collection of location data regarding a user, according to expected
utility; and
means for updating said location data continuously.

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20. The information handling system of claim 19, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

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21. The information handling system of claim 19, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

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22. The information handling system of claim 19, wherein:
said means for ranking further comprises means for ranking items in collections of location data
regarding more than one user, according to expected utility.

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23. The information handling system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

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24. The information handling system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said
users.

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25. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:
means for acquiring location data regarding a user from a plurality of location sources;
means for creating a collection of said location data regarding said user;
means for ranking items in said collection according to expected utility; and
means for updating said location data continuously.

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26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein:
said means for acquiring further comprises means for acquiring location data regarding more
than one user;
said means for creating further comprises means for creating collections of said location data
regarding more than one user, organized by user; and
said means for ranking further comprises means for ranking items in said collections regarding
more than one user, according to expected utility.

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10 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

15 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said
users.

20 31. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:
means for ranking items in a collection of location data regarding a user, according to expected
utility; and
means for updating said location data continuously.

25 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein:
said means for ranking further comprises means for ranking items in collections of location data
regarding more than one user, according to expected utility.

30 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:
means for filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:
means for consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said
users.